(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome of the talks between the National Security Advisor and Chinese Executive Vice Foreign Minister?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) the third meeting of the Special Representatives of the Governments of India and China on the Boundary Questions was held in New Delhi on July 26-27,2004. The meeting between the National Security Advisor, Shri J.N. Dixit and the Vice Foreign Minister, Mr. Dai Bingguo, Special Representatives of India and China respectively, was held in a friendly, constructive and cooperative atmosphere. On July 27, Mr. Dai Bingguo called on the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister. During the call on the Prime Minister, he handed over a letter from the Chinese Premier, Mr. Wen Jiabao. The two sides agreed to hold the next meeting in Beijing at a mutually convenient date.

Labour related issues in MFI and BALCO

*354. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fact finding committee was formed on the advice of the Prime Minister of NDA Government during .last year to look into the labour related issues after privatization of Modern Food Industries and BALCO;

(b) if so, the composition and terms of reference of the Committee; and

(c) whether any report has been submitted and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee comprised of Shri Hasubhai Dave, President, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), Shri Sharad S. Patil, Secretary General, Employers' Federation of India and a representative each from the Department of Disinvestment and the Ministry of Labour and Employment, as its members.

The Terms of Reference of the Committee were to assess whether lay-off/retrenchment had been resorted to by the concerned Companies and whether there were any deviations from the Shareholders' Agreement signed by these Companies with the Government of India in respect of clauses dealing with labour issues.

(c) The Report of the Committee has not yet been received.

Tariff of BSNL and MTNL mobile phones

†*355. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether mobile tariff of BSNL and MTNL is equal to that of other private companies; and

(b) the status of utilisation of MTNL and BSNL services in comparison to other private companies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) The Telecommunications Tariff Order (TTO), 1999 provides flexibility to all cellular operators including BSNL & MTNL to fix tariffs. Thus, the operators are at liberty to offer alternate tariff packages to subscriber depending upon their usage pattern. There are a large number of tariff plans offered by MTNL, BSNL and other cellular operators. Since there are too many combinations of rentals and airtime charges in various alternative packages, the tariff levels of MTNL and BSNL *vis-a-vis* other private cellular operators, do not provide comparable data for any meaningful conclusion. A broad comparison of one of the tariffs plan for general public of BSNL, MTNL and sample private operator has been made. It is observed that BSNL plan charges Rs. 225.00 as monthly rental, local call charge of Rs. 2.20 & STD call charge of Rs. 2.40 to 3.60 per minute depending upon distance but with a pulse rate of 15 seconds and national SMS charge of Rs. 0.40 per message. The MTNL has a plan with Rs. 100.00 as monthly rental, local call charge of Rs. 1.90 per minute & STD call charge of Rs. 1.90 to 3.90 per minute depending upon distance & type of terminating network with 60 seconds pulse and national SMS charge of Rs. 1.50 per message. The private operator has a plan of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.